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Appl. No. 09/998,594

REMARKS

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Applicant hereby resubmits the response previously filed February 13, 2006. This supplemental response includes changes made only to place the response in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173 (b) and (d), namely underlining new claims 26-31 and 35-37. Applicant is also submitting a Supplemental Declaration.


Claims 1-34 are pending. In the Office Action Dated November 22, 2005, the Examiner took the following action: (1) objected to claim 33 for informalities; (2) rejected claims 23, 26-27 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,482,008 to Stafford *et al.*; (3) allowed claims 1-22 and 28-31; and (4) objected to claims 24 and 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable.

Although applicant does not believe claims 23, 26-27 and 32-34 are anticipated by the patent to Stafford *et al.*, applicant is amending claim 23 thereby placing claim 23, 26 and 27 in condition for an early allowance of this application. Specifically, rejected claim 23 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 24, and claims 24 and 25 are being cancelled. New claims 35-37 are also being added. Claim 35 is the combination of rejected claim 23 and allowable claim 25, and is thus also allowable. Finally, applicant is canceling rejected claims 32-34. In view of these cancelled claims, the objection to claim 33 is now moot.

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All of the claims remaining in the application, *i.e.*, claims 1-23, 26-31 and 35-37, are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures:

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+copy)  
Supplemental Declaration

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